submitted to the competent authority in the Government. The losses incurred by the sick fertilizer PSUs during the last three years and the work force employed by them is given below:—

(Rs. Crore)

PSU	Losses incurred			Work Force Employed as on 31.3.2002
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (RE)	
Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited	564.23	767.72	803.28	6950
Fertilizer Coporation of India Limited	856.68	951.36	1068.35	6029
Projects & Development India Limited	19.88	32.66	35.92	1929
Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Limited	70.18	108.30	91.18	1322

(c) Government has been extending budgetary support for meeting the expenditure on the salary and wages of the employees of the above sick fertilizer PSUs. However, PDIL has some dues of statutory payments towards provident fund.

Faulty Construction at Paradeep Fertilizer Plant

3969. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of workers are dying at Fertilizer plant at Paradeep, due to faulty construction by the Oswal Company.

(b) whether Government are also aware that the Oswal Company is not following the health and safety rules, which are mandatory under the law; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure safety of workers, while working at Fertilizer Plant at Paradeep?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Oswal Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (OCFL) is a private sector company. OCFL has informed that its Paradeep plant has been constructed under the supervision of reputed consultancy organisation viz. Jacobs H&G Ltd. and Toyo Engineering Ltd. However, due to some unfortunate incidents, 9 workers had died since the commencement of production in the plant during the years 2000 and 2001.

(b) and (c) OCFL has informed that it is following all modern health and safety precuations as mandated under various statutes and has been complying with all the Government directives pertaining to safety of workers, issued from time to time, in its Paradeep Plant.

Distributorship of IPCL

3970. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian petrochemical Coporation Ltd. already had several chemical distributors in Mumbai, Delhi, Vapi and at several other places; and

(b) the reasons for offering distributorship again in those localities for Polymers, without maintaining proper procedures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) has Chemical Distributors at three locations namely Mumbai, New Delhi and Ahmedabad. IPCL has issued an advertisement in January 2001 for appointment of Consignment Agents at different locations in the country. In view of the process of disinvestment of Government's equity in IPCL alongwith transfer of control of management and market dynamics. IPCL decided not to appoint any new Consignment Agents. However, considering the competitive business environment and the requirements of the company, it was decided to allow the three existing chemical distributors with proven capability, at Ahmedabad, Delhi and Mumbai to deal in Polymer products also initially for a period of one year subject to review. This decision was taken after following the appropriate procedure.